

YOUTH SOFTBALL

Future is now for tournament team

By LARRY SULLIVAN

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Forget about being a championship-caliber tournament level Mooresville-based girls fastpitch softball team in the making. The Carolina Comets-Teal 12-and-under squad is already there.

It has the evidence to prove it.

Over the course of the squad's last four tournament appearances, the Comets-Teal conjured up a trio of first-place showings and one bronze-medal winning performance to show for its success rate.

The team, comprised by Lake Norman area talent and also coached by local instructors, has proved its worth upon appearing in the latest string of outings taking place throughout the state.

The trio of first-place titles took place during the course of the 2007 Springwood Shootout held in Burlington, the '07 Spooktacular staged in nearby Statesville, and the '07 End of Season Finale that was played in the Thomasville area.

The lone non-gold medal winning effort wound up being worth a third-place finish in the '07 Fall Jamboree held in Pilot Mountain that took place before the run of championship efforts were compiled.

The Comets-Teal participate in both National Softball Association and Amateur



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROLINA COMETS-TEAL

HARDWARE SHOW: Players, with coaches, put recent team plaque, individual trophies on display

Softball Association-sanctioned events.

A specialized roster of players, some of who fill the role of multiple positions, has helped key the team's successful charge. The teammates include: first-baseman Erin Mayo; second baseman Emily Lucas; third baseman and pitcher Kayla McGuffey; first baseman and pitcher Dominique Wilson; catcher and shortstop Jennifer Moose; centerfielder Tara Johnson; right fielder and first baseman Sarah Doolen; catcher and third sacker Sarah Kenley; left fielder Halley Meza; third baseman

Jayden Maddox; and short-stop Brandi Stamey.

The coaching staff consists primarily of head coach Roger McGuffey and assistant Don Lucas.

The most recent downside of the team's most recent surge was the loss due to injury of dual position player Kenley, who suffered a broken ankle during a play on base in the Spooktacular event held in Statesville.

There are also others, according to team officials that play key roles for the team off the field. They help serve as sponsors, pitching in

to help cover the cost of tournament entry fees and other costs to make the playing of the competitions a possibility.

Team contributors in that regard includes: G. McFeeters Enterprises Inc.; Bo Homes of N.C. Inc.; Lawnsapes of Lake Norman, Inc.; TACC. INC.; EFC Builders; Animal Hospital of Cornelius; L.K.C. Construction; Swanny's Auto Sales; and Palmer Builders.

The Carolina Comets-Teal U-12 squad is in the process of lining up additional play as well as gearing up for the start of spring tournament appearances for the coming year.

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